Gulf Islands National Seashore Mississippi District



For ages 6-11

This booklet belongs to:

Welcome to Gulf Islands National Seashore

Hi Kids! We are glad you have decided to combine your visit with our Junior Ranger Program. This booklet will give you an opportunity to learn more about the park and have fun at the same time.

Junior Rangers are special people who play an important role in our National Parks. They help to protect the cultural and natural resources of the park, and also share the interesting things they learn with others.

How Can I Become a Junior Ranger?

You can become a Junior Ranger if you are between the ages of 6-11. You can participate in this program at Davis Bayou or Ship Island.

Here are the requirements:

For ages 6-8 years you must complete 5 of the activities in this booklet.

For ages 9-11 years you must complete 7 of the activities in this booklet.

Everyone should read, understand, and sign the Junior Ranger Promise.

Use the Davis Bayou map to locate the different trails and lookout areas in the park. This map is located in the middle of the booklet.

When you are finished return the booklet to the visitor center desk. A park ranger or park volunteer will look over your answers, sign your certificate, and award you an official Junior Ranger badge. Have fun learning about your national parks!



Complete these activities at Davis Bayou.



Complete these activities at Ship Island.

Special thanks to Cathy Justis, Lisa Crow, and Colleen MacMahon for their artwork.

Note to Adult Companions

Thank you for helping the children participate in this program. Parents, other family members, and friends are encouraged to work with new Junior Rangers. Younger children may need some help reading and understanding the instructions and questions. If necessary, you may help your child answer questions. If more guidance is needed ask a park ranger or park volunteer.

During your visit to the park, you must accompany your child at all times. Please read over the "Safety and Good Stewardship in the Park" section with your children.

NOTE: All sites are wheelchair accessible at Davis Bayou except the Nature's Way Trail. If you are on Ship Island, please ask to use the beach wheelchair.

Safety and Good Stewardship in the Park

All plants and animals are protected in National Parks. Please help by not harassing, feeding, injuring, or collecting any of the wildlife or disturbing the plant life. What would happen if all the visitors fed the animals and picked the wildflowers?

For your safety, please be sure to stay on the trails while walking in the park.

Never swim alone.

When visiting Ship Island, beware of jellyfish and stingrays.

To protect yourself from the sun wear a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen, and drink plenty of water.

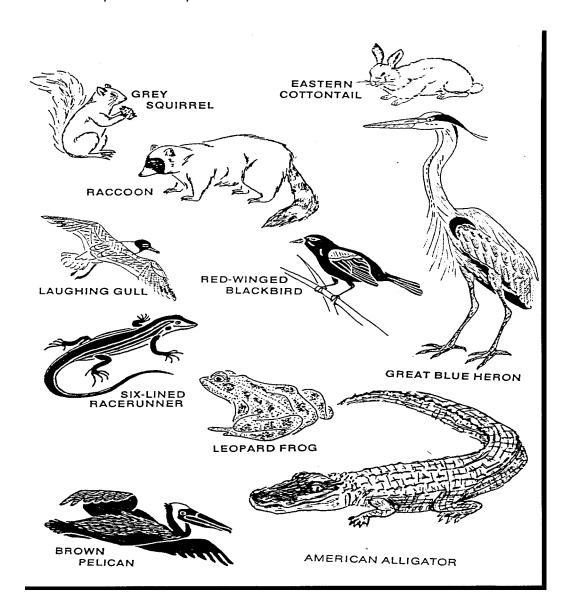
Keep the park beautiful for others to enjoy. Please pick up all trash and put it in a trash can. Trash cans are found throughout the park.

Please follow all park rules and regulations.



Wildlife Search

It's great to watch animals in the wild. Some wild animal sightings can be among the most rewarding experiences of a person's life. While walking through the park, put a check mark by the animals you see.





Park Friends

Wildlife in the park needs your help to stay healthy and safe. Below are some things that can harm our wild friends.

Feeding Wildlife

People come to National Parks for many reasons, especially to watch the wildlife. It is tempting to lure wild animals close with food to watch and photograph them, but in a National Park this is **not allowed!** People food can make animals sick or they could bite the hand that feeds them. You can help by not feeding the wildlife.

<u>Litter</u>

Litter is not a pretty sight. Animals can become entangled or trapped in trash or mistake it for food. You can help by putting trash where it belongs - in a trash can.

Automobiles

Many animals in the park live or feed near the roads. Sometimes people drive too fast or don't pay attention and hit these animals with their cars. You can help by asking your family to drive safely and slowly.

Rangers protect park wildlife and park visitors. If you see anyone feeding an animal or trying to get too close, what could you do?

Tell your parents.

Ask a ranger to talk to them.

Tell them that you are a Junior Ranger and let them know how they can help by not feeding the animals.

Can you think of any other ways we can help our wild park friends?



Leave No Trace



Did you know that Petit Bois Island and Horn Island are wilderness areas? What is a wilderness area? A wilderness area is a place influenced by the forces of nature, where people visit, but do not live. There is no development of buildings and roads, just wild, wild land.

Have you ever visited a wild area? Do you think it is important to keep land wild?

Imagine visiting a wild place. What do you see, hear, or smell? Write a short story about your wild place.

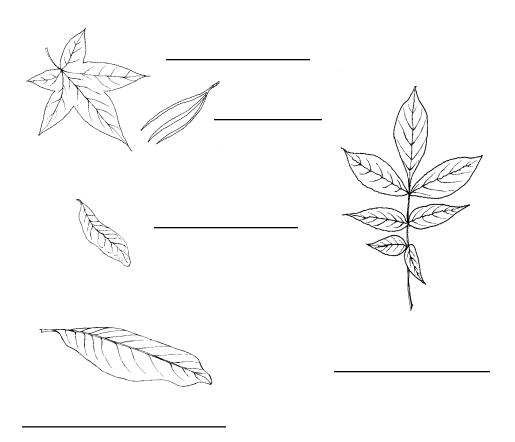




Trail of Trees

Can you imagine a National Park without trees? Trees provide homes and food for many animals such as squirrels, raccoons, and birds. Here's your chance to get to know a few trees found in the park.

An easy way to learn trees is by looking at their leaves. Walk the "Trail of Trees" and use the pictures below to identify the 5 trees on this page. Write the name beside each leaf. Remember all plants are protected in the park, so please do not pull leaves from the trees. NOTE: These trees are labeled with a sign and are located along the trail to the fishing pier. Use the "Davis Bayou Map" and look for the trees numbered 1-5.





Who Am I?
Draw a line from the picture to the correct biography.



2nd Louisiana Native Guards



Eugenia Phillips



Lieutenant Frederick E. Prime



Lieutenant-Colonel H.W. Allen

Hint: Answers can be found using the exhibits in the fort.



During the Civil War, military convicts, political prisoners, and thousands of Confederate prisoners-of-war were imprisoned at Ship Island. This person was confined to a railroad box car on Ship Island during the summer of 1862.

In 1862, hundreds of free men of color and former slaves joined the Union under the direction of General Benjamin Butler. These soldiers were responsible for guarding military convicts and later confederate prisoners-of-war. Some of these men later became known as the Buffalo Soldiers of the Texas frontier.

This person was the Superintending Engineer of the construction of Fort Massachusetts from February 1859 - April 1861.

On September 17, this person left the following note on the fort's bulletin board when he and his troops evacuated Ship Island:

Fort Twiggs, Ship Island September 17, 1861

By order of my government I have this day evacuated Ship Island. This my brave soldiers under command do with much reluctance and regret. For three long months your good ship has been our constant companion.

We have not exactly "lived and loved together," but we have been intimately acquainted, having exchanged cards on the 9th day of July last.

In leaving you to-day we beg you accept our best wishes for your health and happiness while so journing on this pleasant, hospitable shore.

That we may have another exchange of courtesies before the war closes, and that we may meet face to face in closer quarters, is the urgent prayer of your obedient servant.

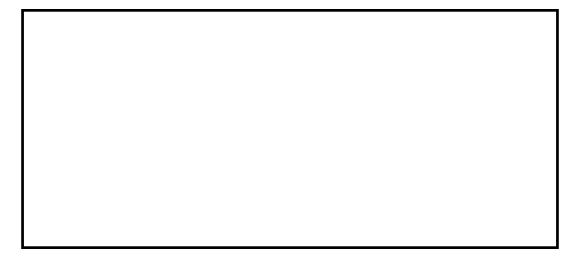


These Dunes Aren't Made for Walking

The sand dunes form a protective wall that keeps saltwater out of the freshwater marshes and woods. A plant called sea oats protects the dunes and holds the sand in place. Without the sea oats the dunes would blow away.

Imagine a sandy beach without sand dunes. Dunes add a lot to the landscape of the islands. When people walk or play on the dunes, it kills the sea oats and other vegetation. You can help by staying off the dunes and explaining to others why they are important.

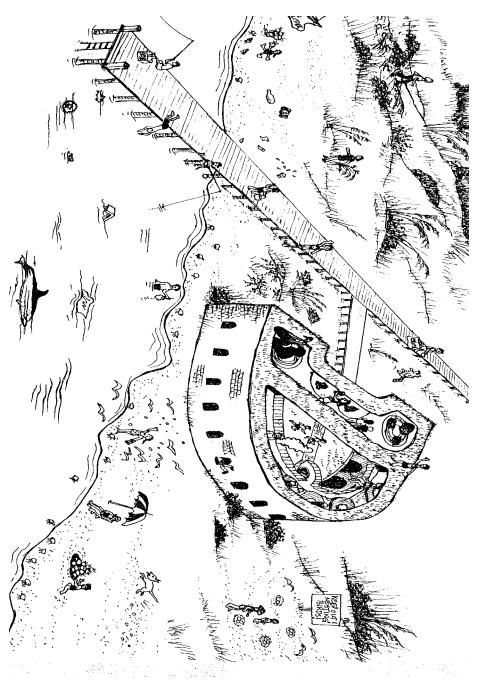
Draw a picture of the dunes on Ship Island. Don't forget to put sea oats on them!





Threats to Ship Island

National Parks belong to everyone. Do you think it is everyone's responsibility to help take care of these special places? More and more people visit Ship Island every year. Some do things without thinking how their actions affect the park and other visitors. Do you see anything wrong with this picture? Circle them.



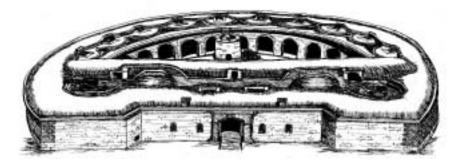


Wetland Wonders

Wetlands are special places that are habitat for many different animals. Habitat is the most important thing for **all** animals. Without food, water, shelter, and space an animal can't survive. The wetland at Davis Bayou is a saltwater wetland. Take a walk to the **Marsh Wildlife Lookout Area** and answer the following questions.

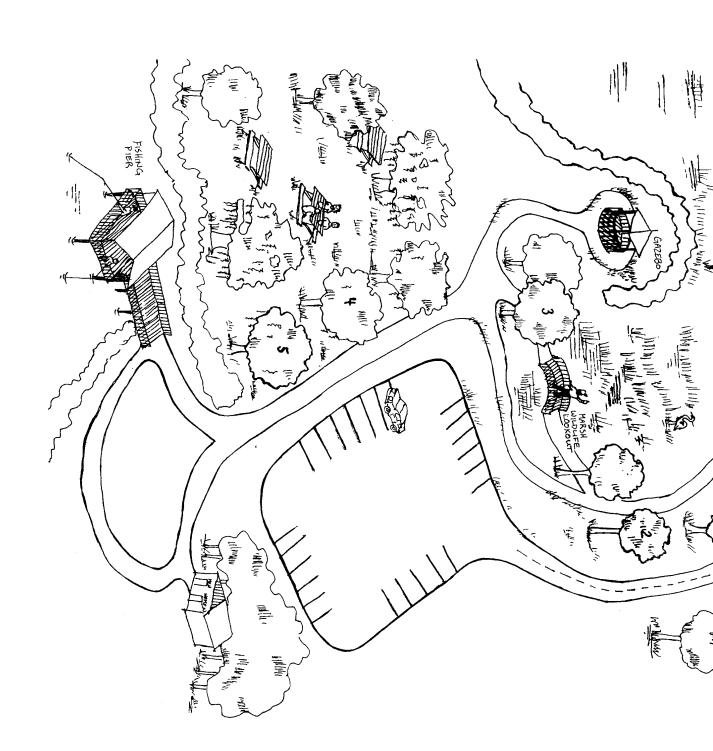


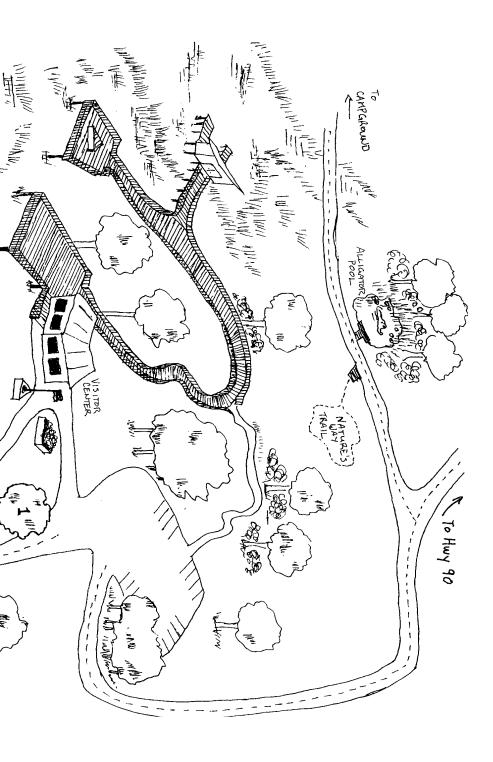
Fort Massachusetts Discovery Hunt



Fill in the blanks to these questions. Answers can be found using the wayside exhibits in Fort Massachusetts.

1.	The early French explorers named the island "Isle aux Vaisseaux," or Ship			
	Island, because			
2.	During the War of, Ship Island was the staging area for			
3.	When was the construction of the fort completed?			
4.	The fort was built to fight the Civil War. True or False			
	Hot shot furnaces were built to solid iron cannon balls red-			
	hot to be fired atships.			
6.	The 15-inch Rodman cannon was 1st cast in, was named for its			
	designer			





Davis Bayau Map



Bayou Bingo Walk

As you walk around the park trails and boardwalks, look for the things in the boxes below. When you find one, write in the box where you found it. When you complete a row across, up or down, or diagonally you have a bayou bingo!

How many times can you win at Bayou Bingo?

Behind Visitor Center (BVC) Fishing Pier (FP) Alligator Pool (AP) Marsh Wildlife Lookout (MWL) Nature's Way Trail (NWT) Gazebo (G)

Spanish Moss	Wildflower	Turtle	Wading Bird	Animal Track
Pine Tree	Frog	Mosquito	Raccoon	Park Ranger
Alligator	Fish	Marsh Plant	Fiddler Crab	Butterfly
Snake	Animal Home	Snail	Magnolia Tree	Grey Squirrel
Sweetgum Tree	Eastern Cottontail Rabbit	Live Oak Tree	Lizard	Armadillo



Island Birds

Many different kinds of birds live, nest, and feed on barrier islands. **Go bird watching** and see if you can find the birds pictured below. How many of each bird did you see? Where did you see it?



Laughing Gull: How many? Where?



Sanderling: How many?



Brown Pelican: How many? Where?



Black Skimmer: How many?



Least Tern: How many? Where?



Red-Winged Blackbird: How many? Where?



The First Americans

The first human inhabitants of the Gulf Coast were Native Americans. Many different tribes such as the Pascagoula and Biloxi lived on the mainland hunting animals, fishing, and gathering nuts and berries. The Native Americans found what they needed to survive in the woods and along the shores of the marsh.

Take a walk to the gazebo and think about how the Native Americans lived along the shores of Davis Bayou. What did they use for tools? What did they eat? Where did they build their houses? What were the houses made of?

Draw a line from the resources in the right-hand column to what it could have been used for by the Native Americans in these early years of civilization. Hint: Many of the resources could be used for more than one thing.

Something that could be used for clothing tree

roots and leaves

Something that could be used for food saw-palmetto leaf

acorns

Something that could be used as a tool animal fur

spanish moss

Something that could be used as medicine berries and fruits

shells

Something that could be used to build a house sticks

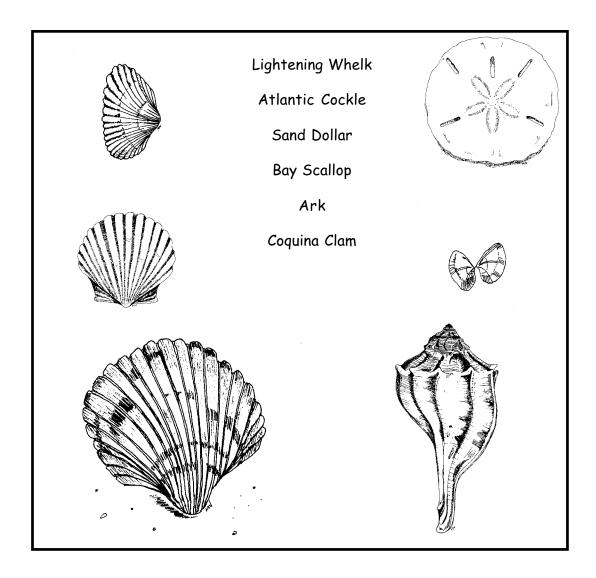
bones

How would you like to have lived back in those days?



Island Treasures

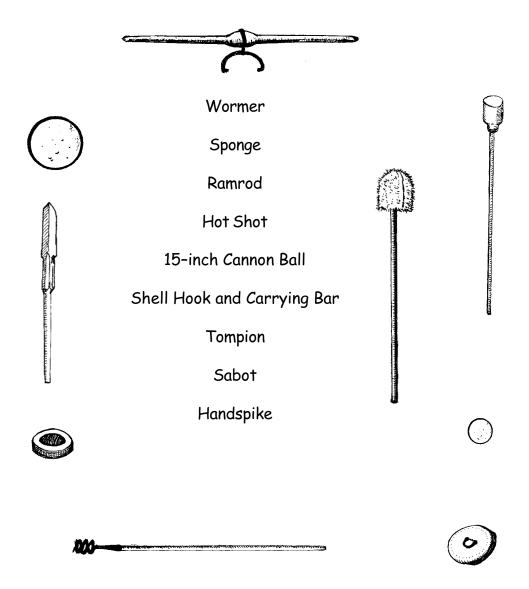
Walking along the beach in search of island treasures is a great way to spend the day on the island. Many marine creatures that live in the Gulf waters can be found washed up on the sandy beaches. Can you identify these six shells? Draw a line from the picture to its name. Once you identify all the shells, see if you can find them on the beach. Please do not remove any live animals from the water.





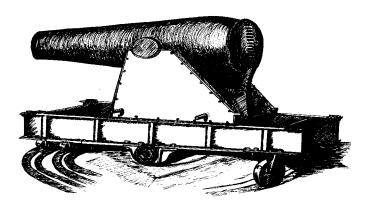
Artillery Match Up

Draw a line from the name to the matching piece of artillery.





15-Inch Rodman Cannon



<u>Wormer</u> - inserted in the gun's barrel and twisted, it removes the remains of cartridge (powder) bags and other debris. It looks like a double cork screw fixed to a long handle.

<u>Sponge</u> - covered with lambskin, it is used for cleaning and cooling the barrel. After firing you want to make sure there are no sparks inside.

 $\underline{15\text{-inch Cannon Ball}}$ - used in the 15-inch Rodman cannon. These cannon balls can weigh between 300 to 400 pounds.

 \underline{Ramrod} - a wooden cylinder that pushes the powder charge and cannon ball to the back of the barrel.

Hot Shot - a solid iron cannon ball, usually 6-8 inches in diameter.

Shell Hook and Carrying Bar - used for lifting and carrying cannon balls.

<u>Tompion</u> - a lid that fits over the muzzle of the gun to keep wind and rain out of the barrel.

<u>Sabot</u> - a wooden disc attached to a cannon ball to prevent it from rolling in the barrel.

<u>Handspike</u> - used to move the carriage and to lift the barrel.



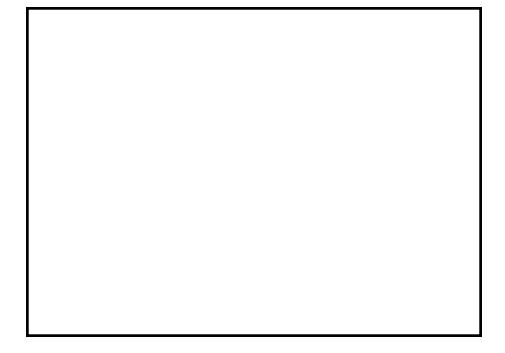
Picture This

Lighthouses can be found all along the coast. Mississippi's first coastal lighthouses were built to mark the deep water channels and anchorages. Ships used these waterways to bring trade goods to major cities like New Orleans.

There were two lighthouses constructed on Ship Island. The first one was made of brick and the second one was made of wood. The wooden lighthouse was constructed in 1886 and stood 76 feet tall. What you see today is an exhibit representing the old lighthouse. Vandals burned the original wooden lighthouse in 1972.

John Gardner, a building contractor made sketches of the original wooden lighthouse before it was constructed. These drawings played an important part in the planning and development of the lighthouse.

Draw a sketch of the lighthouse.





Tracks in the Sand

Many different animals live on the barrier islands. Sometimes we do not see them, but they leave behind their tracks in the sand. Can you match the animal with its tracks?





Bayous, Bays, and Sounds

Bayous, bays, and sounds are bodies of water found in and around coastal areas of the Gulf of Mexico. What are the differences between these bodies of water?

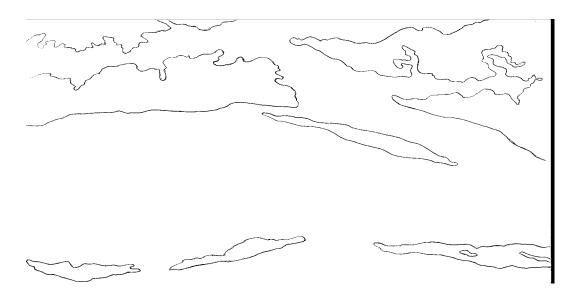
<u>Bayous</u> - a type of wetland often found near the mouth of a river, that is affected by tides. They are slow moving and full of twists and turns. The bayous flow into the bays and sounds.

<u>Bays</u> - a body of water that is surrounded by land except where it empties into the sea or a sound.

 $\underline{\textbf{Sounds}}$ - are bodies of water that usually run parallel to the coast and are separated from the sea by one or more islands.

Take a walk to the fishing pier and label the map below using these key words. You can use the abbreviations if you want.

Horn Island (HI) Mississippi Sound (MS) East Ship Island (ESI)
Davis Bayou (DB) West Ship Island (WSI) Gulf of Mexico (GOM)





Litter, Litter Everywhere

In September, thousands of people participate in the "International Beach Clean Up." Volunteers pick up tons of trash that washes up on the beaches. This trash creates more than an unpleasant sight; it is also harmful to marine animals. Animals sometimes mistake trash for food or become entangled in it.

What would happen if everyone left their litter on the beach?
How does it make you feel when you see litter on the beach or along the roadside?
What can you do to help? Ask a park ranger to help you select a place on the island to collect trash. You can use your empty lunch sack or ask a park ranger for a plastic bag. Please do not pick up sharp objects . Return the bag of litter and have a park ranger sign below. Thanks for your help.

Get involved in your community.
You can make a difference!

Ranger's	: Signature	

Junior Ranger Promise

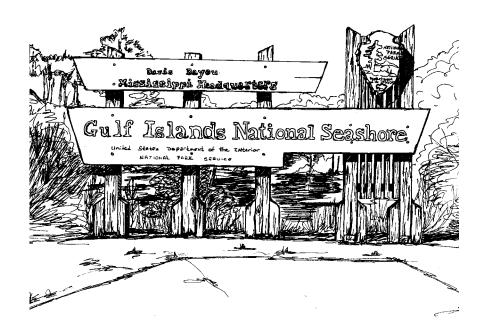
As a Junior Ranger I promise:

to help protect the plants and animals of the National Parks,

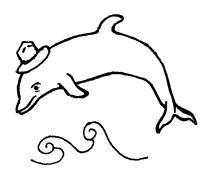
to help keep the air, water, and land clean, and

to do my part to help others learn the importance of these special places.

Your signature _____



Junior Ranger



Certificate of Completion This is to certify that

has agreed to uphold the Junior Ranger Promise and has completed the necessary activities to become a Junior Ranger of Gulf Islands National Seashore.

Park	Ranger	Date	
	J		

National Park Service

On March 1, 1872, the first National Park, Yellowstone, was set aside "as a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people." Today the National Park Service contains over 379 special places. Gulf Islands National Seashore, because of its outstanding features such as historic fortifications, white sand beaches, and designated wilderness areas, became part of the National Park Service on January 8, 1971.



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